

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-08 /044 W
-----057824 200918Z /10

R 191414Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1920
INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USNATO

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USEEC
USOECN
USDOC FOR BEWT (A/DAS STROH)

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: BTRA, EEUT, UR, US
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEETING IN
MOSCOW, JUNE, 1978

REF: STATE 122871 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ARMSTRONG ADVISED MAY 18 THAT HE HAD CONDUCTED
DISCUSSIONS WITH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN TRADE (MFT) OFFICIALS ABOUT PROPOSED MEETING.
AGENDA AND PARTICIPANTS ARE AS STATED REFTTEL, WITH SOVIETS
ADDING "TRANSPORT" TO ROUND OUT ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
THEMES (NOTE THAT THIS PARALLELS THE BREZHNEV "HIGH LEVEL"
CONFERENCE PROPOSAL). ARMSTRONG THOUGHT LEVEL OF PARTI-
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CIPATION MIGHT GIVE MOST TROUBLE, WITH SOVIET WILLINGNESS
TO PRODUCE TOP LEADERS CONTINGENT ON NUMBER OF WESTERN
CORPORATE CHAIRMEN IN ATTENDANCE. HE SAID HE WOULD BE
"BEATING THE BUSHES" FOR CANDIDATES AND WOULD KEEP
DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF PROGRESS.

1. FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE WILLIS ARMSTRONG

CALLED E/C COUNSELOR MAY 18 TO CONVEY RESULTS OF TWO DAY DISCUSSIONS IN MOSCOW BETWEEN HIMSELF AND GUNNAR JARRING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND SOVIET CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CHAIRMAN BORIS BORISOV, AND SECRETARY GENERAL IVAN I. GAYDAYENKO, AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE MANZHULO. THERE HAD BEEN GENERAL AGREEMENT TO HOLD WHAT HE TERMED "FIRST MULTILATERAL" TRADE MEETING OF THIS TYPE SINCE 1952 IN MOSCOW, JUNE 26-28, IN THE SOVIET GUEST HOUSE ON VOROB'YEVSKOYE SHOSSE. MEETING, AS PER REFTTEL, WOULD BE BETWEEN SELECTED TOP WESTERN CORPORATE OFFICIALS AND SOVIET GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP.

2. ARMSTRONG SAID AGENDA FOR SESSION WOULD INCLUDE TRADE AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS, BARRIERS TO TRADE, ORGANIZATION OF TRADE, CREDIT, COMPENSATION AGREEMENTS, MEASURES FOR RESOLVING TRADE DISPUTES, ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT. HE EXPLAINED THAT HE AND JARRING HAD PROPOSED ENERGY, PRINCIPALLY OIL AND GAS, BE DISCUSSED. THERE WAS SOMEWHAT LESS INTEREST IN ENVIRONMENT. THE SOVIETS HAD PROPOSED TRANSPORT, AND THE WESTERN SIDE HAD AGREED TO HEAR A SHORT SOVIET PRESENTATION ON THE SUBJECT, WITHOUT ANY COMMITMENT TO DISCUSS IT. (NOTE: IT IS INTERESTING THAT THE THEMES OF ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT ARE THE SAME THREE TOPICS FOR WHICH BREZHNEV PROPOSED HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCES.)

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3. RECRUITING TOP AMERICAN CORPORATE EXECUTIVES FOR THE SESSION WOULD REQUIRE SOME "BEATING THE BUSHES," ARMSTRONG INDICATED. IT HAD BEEN PRETTY WELL AGREED THAT MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE PATOLICHEV WOULD OPEN THE MEETING. PARTICIPATION BY STATE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CHAIRMAN KIRILLIN AND STATE BANK CHAIRMAN ALKHIMOV WAS ALSO ANTICIPATED, ALTHOUGH SOVIETS INDICATED THAT THEIR OWN LEVEL OF ATTENDANCE WOULD BE CONTINGENT ON ICC'S ABILITY TO PRODUCE AN IMPRESSIVE NUMBER OF WESTERN CORPORATE EXECUTIVES. ARMSTRONG SAID THAT IAN MCGREGOR, PRESIDENT OF THE ICC, FORMER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE PETERSON AND WILLIAM EBERLE WOULD BE ATTENDING, AND HE HOPED TO PERSUADE FIVE OR MORE SENIOR AMERICAN BUSINESS OFFICIALS TO JOIN THEM. AMONG WEST EUROPEAN AND JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN WHO WOULD BE COMING HE MENTIONED FRANK ROBERTS OF THE U.K.

4. IT WAS PLANNED THAT THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS WOULD ARRIVE IN MOSCOW ON SUNDAY, JUNE 25, AND DEPART ON JUNE 28. SWEDISH ICC OFFICIAL EMILSSON WILL HANDLE ADVANCE PREPARATIONS.

5. ARMSTRONG SAID THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE WAS TO FIND WAYS OF DEALING WITH EAST/WEST TRADE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PRESENT EASTERN DEBT PROBLEM. HE FELT THAT THE SITUATION OF THE EASTERN COUNTRIES WILL OBLIGE THEM EITHER TO INCREASE THEIR EXPORTS TO THE WEST OR ELSE CUT BACK THEIR LINES OF CREDIT, SINCE THE PRESENT TREND COULD NOT BE PERPETUATED.

6. ARMSTRONG SAID THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE TO KEEP THE

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DEPARTMENT INFORMED ABOUT PLANS FOR THE MEETING AS THEY
DEVELOP. MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

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